

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION**  
**March 13, 2007**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners John M. Hyk (Chairman), Donald P. Berry, Sr. and Amy R. Fowler. Also present was Treasurer David A. Parkman, Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell, and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Present for this report was Treasurer David Parkman and Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell.

**REVENUE CONTROL REPORT:**

D. Parkman reported that, as advised by the Auditor, a new account had been created entitled "Refund" for the purpose of recording money reimbursed by Raymond Mansfield to the County for materials and unfinished labor on the generator electrical project in Searsport. This account can also be used for other errors which result in the County receiving money back. Recently, the County was reimbursed for an error in the County Employee match paid to Lord, Abbett and Co. for the Deferred Compensation 457 Plan. This money was also recorded in the "Refund" account.

D. Parkman asked the Commissioners if any consultants would be meeting with the Jail Research Committee and Commissioners that afternoon and the Commissioners replied that this meeting was just between the Commissioners and Jail Research Committee.

**RESERVE ACCOUNTS:**

J. Hyk asked how much Surplus the County has from the previous year. The Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer explained that a number of departments were overdrawn and surplus was used to offset that. B. Arseneau read off the list of departments that were overdrawn and the approximate figures, which had been reported at a previous meeting in 2007:

Auditing:	\$1,800.00 overdrawn
Interest:	\$9,348.50 overdrawn
Jail:	\$62,989.02 overdrawn (The Deputy Treasurer noted that it was actually more than that.)
Sheriff:	Over \$12,000.00 overdrawn
Commissioners:	\$23,169.87 overdrawn

J. Hyk roughly calculated the amount and noted that this actually meant that the County had gone "nearly \$40,000.00 in the wrong direction."

**FIXED ASSETS:**

D. Parkman informed the Commissioners that he had sent a request for the departments to furnish their fixed assets list for 2006 and all had submitted these on time. He commended all departments and thanked for complying so well. He stated that the Auditor had all the information he needed and D. Parkman believed that the audit and annual report might be sent out in June this year, "instead of December."

**WARRANTS:**

Treasurer D. Parkman read expenditures from the various reserve accounts.

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded correcting a .03 cent error in the February 13, 2007 Active/Restricted Reserve, with the revised amount being \$7,578.32. Unanimous.**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of invoices on the February 13, 2007 Active and Restricted accounts in the amount of \$5,136.03. Unanimous.**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of invoices on the February 23, 2007 regular warrant in the amount of \$18,720.43. Unanimous.**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of invoices on the Capital and Restricted Reserves in the amount of \$4,668.05. Unanimous.**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the invoices on the March 13, 2007 regular warrant in the amount of \$175,232.56. Unanimous.**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Unanimous.**

#### **MILEAGE RATE FOR 2007:**

Commissioner Fowler explained that a number of people had researched the current IRS-allowed mileage rate and it is 48.5 cents per mile. The Budget Committee had wanted it reduced to 44.5 cents per mile. The Commissioners felt that it is not up to the Budget Committee to set the rate. Due to this confusion, EMA Director Dale Rowley had recently sent down invoices at the 44.5 cent per mile rate for reimbursement. D. Berry recommended changing the rate on those invoices from 44.5 to 48.5 cents per mile.

**\*\*D. Berry moved to change the mileage rate reimbursement request for Dale Rowley's mileage reimbursement sheets from 44.5 to 48.5 cents per mile. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded setting the mileage rate for 2007 at 48.5 cents per mile. Unanimous.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTER:**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded entering Executive Session for a personnel matter according to Title 1, 405 subsection E at 10:17 a.m. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded exiting Executive Session at 10:35 a.m. Unanimous.**

#### **KNOX/WALDO REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PRESENTATION:**

Present for this discussion was Alan Hinsey of Eastern Maine Development Corporation. He explained that his purpose in meeting with the Commissioners was to discuss what EMDC's function is. EMDC covers the six counties of Piscataquis, Penobscot, Hancock, Washington, Waldo and Knox. He submitted some information and data related to the work force. EMDC focuses on economic development and "looks at the region in a different way." A. Hinsey pointed out on one of the sheets, the State of Maine's "R&D/Business Triangle and noted that Knox and Waldo Counties are located within that triangle. This triangle of business is the center of research. A. Hinsey reviewed some of the informational data he was submitting to the County Commissioners which included references to tax and development zone incentives, lending programs and assistance in the following areas: technical, site and relocation, workforce development and training and federal contract procurement.

The regions of Knox and Waldo were discussed. A. Hinsey explained that there are three key regions: Belfast/Searsport Service Center, Camden/Rockport Service Center and Rockland/Thomaston Service Center, and that “these drive the economy.” EMDC tries to focus on how to maximize that. The three key regions are “very distinct,” but are linked by seven common factors, as noted in the material. EMDC looks at how to link those three distinct regions together. Another sheet focused on “how the rest of the world looks at us.” He related that there are nearly 440,000 people within the fifty-mile KWRED radius, based on the US Census 2004 estimates. There are almost 1.3 million people in the State of Maine. The average commute to places of employment is 23 miles one way. There are ongoing issues with roads and transportation. The net importer with MBNA here now is the exporter.

J. Hyk commented that if you “took everyone in Waldo County, you could not fill Fenway Park.” He drew attention to the property tax situation.

A. Hinsey directed the Commissioners to page six and noted that most future development in the Waldo/Knox County region will occur in and around the transportation triangle that runs from Augusta to Belfast to Rockland on the “I-95 Corridor.”

A. Hinsey reviewed Knox/Waldo Counties’ Economic Development “Myths.” He then noted the “real picture,” which included the regions’ challenges. It was noted that the average life expectancy in the Midcoast Maine region is 42, which is higher than the State of Maine average of 40.2 and the U.S.’s average of 36. A. Hinsey stated that counties need to be pro-active. 8% of families in the Knox/Waldo regions are below the federal poverty level. The State of Maine average is 7.8% and Waldo County is 11%. A. Hinsey emphasized that this region needs higher paying jobs to narrow that gap and provide opportunity for local people.

The mission of KWRED was noted as being “To stimulate long-term, robust economic growth for the Knox and Waldo County region through Job Creation & Retention, Advocacy, and Regional Collaboration.” A. Hinsey pointed out several key strategies and principles including but not limited to providing assistance to existing businesses, recruiting new businesses for the region, leveraging resources in the region, building a sustainable year-round employment base, etc. The “vision” included new jobs and income levels that meet or exceed the U.S. average, and eventually the Northern New England average (NH, VT & ME.)

A. Fowler asked what KWRED was doing for Waldo County. A. Hinsey drew attention to the list of current activities including special projects, which require training, etc. KWRED is working with the Hutchinson Center for some of this. KWRED is developing business and technology and has been in discussion with the Bank of America, has been involved with a grant for a British Farm in the Belfast Industrial Park, the Pine Tree Zones, and has assisted Penobscot Frozen Foods. In the spring it is hoped that there will be discussions about science and technology and trying to get people to come to this region. A. Hinsey commented that Belfast has changed and the mission is to get people up here. His goal for this region as “being what Portland is to Boston.”

There was brief discussion regarding the Pine Tree Zone and recent legislation considering the whole State of Maine as being a Pine Tree Zone.

A. Fowler asked if she could read through those reports. The Commissioners thanked A. Hinsey for coming and meeting with them.

## **EMERGENCY MANANAGEMENT AGENCY REPORT:**

Present for this report was E.M.A. Director Dale Rowley, who reviewed the following with the County Commissioners:

1. SEARSPORT MIDDLE SCHOOL GENERATOR HOOK-UP PROJECT: SAD 56 is considering adding funds to upgrade the generator & transfer switch, the electrician is working on the hook-up and has started making \$25 per week reimbursement payments. \$125.00 has been received to date. D. Rowley asked the Commissioners if they wished for the Searsport Generator to be owned by the County or SAD 56. D. Rowley recommended that SAD 56 own the generator and develop a support agreement for use of the generator when the shelter is activated there. The Commissioners agreed and asked D. Rowley to tend to this.
2. TROY HOWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL GENERATOR UPDATE: The County owns this generator. It has been tested and now has a new weather-proof shelter. D. Rowley recommended that a new support agreement be written up that goes into more detail. D. Rowley presented an updated agreement for the County Commissioners to review and sign. The Commissioners agreed to sign this.
3. VERIZON BACKUP POWER: D. Rowley reported that he has contacted Richard Powell regarding this matter. The battery backup goes for about 8-10 hours. Verizon will deploy generators to support the system. There has been no discussion yet as to what Verizon's plans are for generators stolen during the event. D. Rowley supplied a supplemental attachment of information.
4. STATUS OF COUNTY HAZMAT RESPONSE CAPABILITY: D. Rowley reported that this was "in holding pattern" at present. He explained that he has attempted to get the State to fund this and SERC will not support a team in Waldo County. He has also attempted to get HSCP funds, but Waldo was not selected. There has been no response or protective equipment currently available. He further reported that initial interest by those who wanted to start a team is "waning." 80 people were trained a year ago; 30 signed up, 8 showed up to a meeting and 2 returned applications. D. Rowley said that that a decision needed to be made whether to proceed with a County HazMat Response Team at this point. He shared his thoughts as EMA Director which included setting up support agreements with other HazMat Teams, and those teams may want a stipend. This would include Rockland, Waterville and Ellsworth Fire Departments. The idea is to train as many fire departments as possible for "gross decontamination." One issue to consider is that if a HazMat Team comes to Waldo County and a spiller can't be billed, Waldo County may be responsible for paying the bill. Another issue is that the nearest Decon Strike Team is Augusta. A. Fowler commented that it was not fair to "psyche" the team and then "drop them." J. Hyk stated he was aware of someone "making a competing statement to the Budget Committee." D. Rowley went on to explain that there are 22 teams being funded through the State. D. Rowley stated that hosting training is the most complex part of it. It would cost \$35,000.00 for the State to do it. He described the training scenario as a three-day exercise with Laberman and Collins for East Coast Maine. It will be an "active shooter" scenario. A cruise ship will be taken over by a terrorist. This will occur in late September. On March 28, 2007 there will be a development meeting on this at the Hutchinson Center.
5. WALDO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION MUTUAL AID COMPACT: D. Rowley was pleased to report 100% participation of County Municipalities. All towns in Waldo County are part of this and there is one agreement for the whole County.

## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT:**

Present for this discussion was Facilities Manager Keith Overlock, who reported:

1. The concern about lead paint in the Old Jail has been looked into and the building could be torn down, as long as the material was hauled to the right place.
2. K. Overlock recently took a course on lighting economically and efficiently. He will try to develop a plan and discuss this with the Commissioners at a later date.
3. F. W. Webb came in, free of charge, and performed a heat-loss calculation on the Superior Courthouse. They will send the documentation to the County. The recommendation will be to tear out the old boiler for efficiency reasons only, as it functions well otherwise. This is strictly a fuel efficiency issue. It is likely that a new boiler would pay for itself in due time. This will also be calculated. An approximate amount loss of 600,000 BTU has been calculated so far. In addition to that, 20% of heat loss could also be saved by addressing the windows, such as sealing them and adding storm windows. K. Overlock also noted that when comparing the 2004-2005 heating season and the 2005-2006 heating season, there was a savings of over \$3,000.00 in fuel. K. Overlock believed this was as a direct result of installing valves on the radiators and “micromanaging” the heat in the building.
4. The District Courthouse boiler is now working very well.
5. There is a continuing heat issue in the Communications Center. The heat and air conditioning are constantly competing with one another as various employees try to find comfortable temperature levels. There were two separate controls; one for each. K. Overlock has reduced that to one to try and simplify and control matters a little. He noted that in a number of county offices, the thermostats will be set so high that the temperature is well over 75° and sometimes over 80°. While the Commissioners said they did not wish to put out a directive regarding this at this time, they encouraged employees to use the heat as efficiently as possible and directed K. Overlock to continue to look in to the matter with aid of F. W. Webb.

#### **GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONTRACT BETWEEN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY & REGISTRY OF DEEDS:**

Present for this matter was Deloris Page, Register of Deeds, who explained that this contract was almost identical to the one recently signed by the Commissioners to allow the Genealogical Society of Utah to create digital images of certain records in the Probate Registry. The Commissioners agreed to sign this separate contract for the digital imaging of certain records in the Registry of Deeds.

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded signing the contract between the Genealogical Society and the Registry of Deeds. Unanimous.**

After briefly noting that the Register of Probate was the one who signed the Probate contract, the Commissioners voted as follows:

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded allowing Deloris Page to sign the Genealogical Society contract instead of the Commissioners. Unanimous.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Present for this report was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau at first, and then the rest was reported by Deputy County Clerk Veronica Stover, as the Commissioners instructed the County Clerk to step out of the meeting to make a telephone call for them. The following was reported:

1. B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that the tax abatement minutes for William Shepherd vs. Town of Burnham on February 6, 2007 had stated that the Commissioners would allow the hearing to continue in the March meeting, if the parties could not resolve the matter themselves. The Commissioners stated that they would not be continuing the hearing itself, they would simply hand down a decision if no resolution had been found by the parties. B. Arseneau told them that Mr. Shepherd had informed her that he and the Selectmen were scheduled to meet on March 19, 2007, which was after the Commissioners March meeting, so this was why it had not been put on the agenda. She would let them know the outcome of the meeting between the selectmen and Mr. Shepherd after she had spoken with him.

2. The MCCA Risk Pool Board Meeting has been cancelled in order to provide MCCA with additional time to discuss an important legislative matter. It is anticipated that the next Risk Pool Board of Directors' meeting will occur on April 11, 2007.

3. B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that an employee, who would remain nameless for the protection of the employee's family, had requested to be allowed to use up to 80 hours of sick leave while on upcoming military leave.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded allowing the employee to use 80 hours of sick leave while on military leave. Unanimous.**

4. Maine Municipal Association has sent a refund after concluding their audit. The total amount refunded comes to \$1,729.00.

5. The Selectmen of Searsmont sent a letter commending the County Commissioners for their handling of the 2007 budget, thanking them for keeping the budget down and for a job well done.

6. The Commissioners signed a resolution commending Stephanie Dunton of Winterport Maine for her volunteering spirit and for being chosen as one of the State of Maine's top two youth volunteers in the twelfth annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, which is a national program recognizing young people for outstanding community service.

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded accepting the resolution for Stephanie Dunton. Unanimous.**

7. The Clean Beaches Council requested that the Waldo County Commissioners join them in declaring the week beginning June 29, 2007 as National Clean Beaches Week. The Commissioners signed a proclamation resolving that starting with March 13, 2007, each year the seven-day period ending on July 5th shall be observed as National Clean Beaches Week and encouraged all Waldo County residents to visit, enjoy, and protect this natural resource.

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded accepting the proclamation for the National Clean Beaches Week as presented. Unanimous.**

8. Pay step increases read by B. Arseneau for the following employees were noted by the County Commissioners:

- Victim/Witness Advocate Deborah McAllian has reached her two year pay step on March 7, 2007 and the pay will increase from \$14.33 to \$14.73 per hour.

- Correction Corporal Monica Brown will reach her eight-year pay step on March 14, 2007 and will receive an increase in pay from \$16.35 to \$16.79 per hour.
- Deputy James Greeley will reach his two-year pay step on March 13, 2007 and will receive an increase in pay from \$15.70 to \$15.93 per hour.
- Deeds Clerk Dayne Beckett reached her fifth-year pay step on February 16, 2007 and received a pay increase to \$13.31 per hour.

9. Communications Director Owen Smith sent correspondence to the Commissioners recommending the hire of Elizabeth Daggett, Paul Haskell and Charles Yahrling as part-time dispatcher trainees, effective February 12, 2007. They will undergo several months of extensive training before they are placed into the part-time rotation for work.

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded accepting the hire of Elizabeth Daggett, Paul Haskell and Charles Yahrling, effective February 12, 2007 as part-time dispatcher trainees at \$11.40 per hour. Unanimous.**

10. The Penobscot County Commissioner Chairman, the Penobscot County Sheriff and the Chairman of the Jail Expansion Advisory Committee Office Jail Expansion Advisory Committee sent a letter to the Waldo County Commissioners dated February 14, 2007 explaining that the Penobscot County Jail has been experiencing overcrowding for the last ten years and is now unable to expand capacity any further. They have been granted a variance from the State of Maine D.O.C. allowing them to temporarily increase the authorized beds from 136 to 182. As part of that variance process, they are addressing the long-term needs of the Jail and have appointed a Jail Expansion Advisory Committee to explore alternatives and opportunities. The purpose of the letter was to inquire if the County of Waldo was interested in exploring potential ways Penobscot and Waldo County might work together. The Commissioners reviewed the letter and decided to take no action at this time.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Commissioner Fowler presented a Statement to Members of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Legislature In Support of LD 790 – “An Act to Strengthen Rural Community Investment.” She stated that she is in support of this and asked if the other Commissioners would support it. The purpose of the LD is to “build greater capacity within our communities and our institutions to create and retain wealth and opportunity throughout rural Maine.” The LD also stated that “base funding from Maine Rural Partners should come from state and federal appropriations and that the annual request of \$15,000 from the State of Maine is a necessary core commitment for moving rural Maine forward. This base funding will leverage federal and private resources for addressing core capacity building needs in our communities and state.”

**\*\*J. Hyk moved, D. Berry seconded supporting LD 790 – An Act to Strengthen Rural Community Investment.” Unanimous.** The Commissioners signed this and Commissioner Fowler took it with her.

#### **MINUTES APPROVED:**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded accepting the Waldo County Commissioners Court Session minutes from the March 21, 2006, the minutes from the February 6, 2007 Shepherd vs. Town of Burnham Tax Abatement Hearing and the minutes from the February 6, 2007 Howe vs. Town of Brooks Tax Abatement Hearing. Unanimous.**

The Commissioners adjourned the meeting for lunch break, to be resumed at 1:00 p.m. for a meeting with the Waldo County Jail Research Committee.

## **MEETING WITH JAIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE:**

Present with the three Waldo County Commissioners were the following members of the Waldo County Jail Research Committee: Eugene Ellis of Stockton Springs, Searsmont Selectman Bruce Brierley, Waldo Selectman Kathy Littlefield, Grayson Hartley of Islesboro, Waldo County Sheriff Scott Story and T. Richard Snyder of the Restorative Justice Project. Also present were, Chief Deputy Robert Keating, 2007 Waldo County Budget Committee Member Richard Desmarais and County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau to record the minutes.

S. Story stated that he would like to “kick off the meeting” by thanking all present for meeting and resuming the Jail Research Committee. He stated that B. Brierley has mentioned that there is a real danger that the State of Maine will be trying to take over County Jails. He added that it is garnishing bi-partisan support. He commented that it may be an attempt to take Jails out of the property tax and create “relief.”

J. Hyk then addressed the Committee and thanked them for meeting. He informed them of some things he felt they would like to know, including the fact that the Commissioners expect to pay for any planning out of the County Planning Reserve Account, which currently has a balance of approximately \$80,000.00. He also informed them that the Commissioners have hired architectural firm S.M.R.T. to do a small amount of work for them. When the Jail Committee didn’t come together last year as anticipated, the Commissioners tried to figure out how to proceed based on the recommendations of the Committee in their final report. By way of a reminder of the history of the planning so far, he recalled the following:

- The County Commissioners hired Pulitzer/Bogard back in 2002-3. This architectural firm met with the Sheriff and looked at all the data records for the Jail up to that point. They used this to make a projection of how many and what type of inmates the County would have in the future. Pulitzer/Bogard wrote up a program for how the new Jail would look. This information was sent to every town.
- The Commissioners then hired S.M.R.T., an architectural firm in Portland who was working in conjunction with Pulitzer/Bogard, to do conceptual drawings and square footage pricing. S.M.R.T. looked at all the possible property available. The best spot was across from the Troy Howard Middle School; however, this was not approved by Belfast.
- The County ended up purchasing the back side of the afore-mentioned property, “thanks to Grayson Hartley,” for “next to nothing.” J. Hyk noted that this was “great property.” S.M.R.T. has information for that property and has also done a square footage price. S.M.R.T. also has all the information on file, so the County will still need to use them. J. Hyk noted that S.M.R.T. is the firm that did the “Two Bridges” Jail shared by Lincoln and Sagadahoc and Somerset.
- J. Hyk recommended also consulting with Loren Clarke of Nickerson and O’Day. This firm did the Penobscot County Jail, the Federal Building, etc. They manage entire construction projects. J. Hyk described L. Clarke as a professional. J. Hyk noted, “He can be a good resource to get the process going the way I think you might want it done.”

S. Story explained that S.M.R.T. can answer the questions that may put forth by Nickerson and O’Day, and can also answer some of the Committee’s questions.



J. Hyk stated that the Commissioners didn't know how they should move forward. They took the Jail Research report mentioned before and have looked at trying to do it in "bites."

K. Littlefield stated that she had been thinking about this a little and that she thought the Committee had all the options that they had come up with in the final report and would have someone tell them which options should be "thrown out the window" and which should be considered. She didn't know what kind of consultant they would need.

J. Hyk stated that he had no problem with this, but he didn't want "a dog of the same breed in this fight." He didn't want to hire another firm like the two they already had hired.

K. Littlefield said she had spoken with Chris Shrum of Eastern Maine Development Corporation. He is currently helping the Rockland Police Department. He is working along with Jim Demesis of Portland, Justice Planning Management in Augusta, another person from Barnstable, Massachusetts. He was also working with Carolyn Ball of the University of Maine at Orono, as Policing and Criminal Justice are her specialty.

A. Fowler said that she thought the last Jail Research Committee meeting on February 27, 2007 was good, but she had left it "completely confused." She thought that the Committee was taking the report and getting a consultant to review it.

S. Story, referring to his power point presentation at that meeting, said that if they read all the recommendations, it made his "a mute point."

G. Hartley stated that he thought some of S. Story's ideas warranted merit.

The Committee's list of ideas was briefly reviewed. These included:

1. Present a total jail facility and county office facilities as proposed in the \$18 million bond issue.
2. Present a jail plan that does not include the commissioners and county offices as originally presented.
3. Develop a plan to provide for a separate sheriff's office facility. Determine its location and decide what should be done with the present building and land on Congress Street.
4. Carry forth with plans to support a state-wide bond issue to fund county capital expenditures with little or no interest payments.
5. Develop a plan to build a jail facility in phases. For example, develop the infrastructure and pay for it before continuing jail construction.
6. Expand alternative #5 by including a portion of the facility when developing the infrastructure.
7. Take a strong look at regional jail facilities and sharing programs with neighboring counties.
8. Revisit the issue of utilizing the present jail in a county plan.
9. Establish a county jail fund over a period of years that would lessen the impact of a bond issue on the towns involved.

J. Hyk informed the group that the County Commissioners sent two letters during the past two years to Penobscot and Knox Counties inquiring about their interest in funding a study of regionalization between the three counties. Those two counties had not been interested. Now, both, within the last month, have written letters inviting Waldo County to look into shared functions and costs with them.

G. Hartley said that there had been a meeting with Knox County at the Hutchinson Center a while back and he had left that meeting with the impression that Knox might be willing to work with Waldo County.

A. Fowler explained that Knox's letter had just arrived today at 12:30 by email, asking for Waldo County to meet with them regarding this matter.

G. Hartley commented, "We don't know what we need, but we do need a comprehensive plan. Many of the recommendations affect and are tied with each other. Plus, other buildings are in need of consideration."

J. Hyk agreed. "We have no space," he acknowledged.

T. R. Snyder said the he felt there was a need to look at programs *within* the Jail. He thought the County should start with that first, and then work on the look of the building itself.

J. Hyk felt that it wasn't so much an architect or consultant that was needed, it was a planner.

G. Hartley thought, "If S.M.R.T. is working with all these other counties, maybe it makes sense to have them, based on all the other counties' needs, meet with us and let us pick their brains."

T.R. Snyder felt that if Waldo went into a meeting with Knox, Waldo would need "to have in mind the kinds of questions we've raised and what we'd like to see for programs, law enforcement, etc."

S. Story said that talking with Knox and Penobscot now "looks a lot different than it was two years ago. These counties now are facing what we were already facing two years ago."

K. Littlefield stated that Waldo County needs a plan "that allows for some space for all county needs, with the Jail being the most pressing."

J. Hyk stated that as far as he knew, there was no place to add onto any of the current court buildings, and he did not think the State had any plans to do so. "The County only has so much room," and lamented the poor condition of the Sheriff's office, stating, "We've got to get him out of there."

K. Littlefield suggested making a list of the County's problems.

J. Hyk reminded the group that the Facilities Committee had done that years ago.

S. Story stated, "Whether you like Pulitzer/Bogard or not, they already did that study, with our input. What I presented the other night [the February 27, 2007 Jail Research Committee Meeting] dovetails nicely with most of your recommendations. I have a problem hiring someone to repeat studies that have already been done."

K. Littlefield said that people just were not sure that what had been proposed was in the best interests of the County. S. Story recommending prioritizing. G. Hartley felt there was also the need to identify what regionalization will actually entail or be defined as. J. Hyk stated that he was in favor of what the Committee wanted because he was "stuck." G. Hartley said he'd like to see the Committee meet with

S.M.R.T., then meet as a Committee to determine what was feasible and what wasn't. He also thought the Committee would need to know what types of Jail programs Waldo County was looking for.

J. Hyk stated that if the Commissioners could not put aside money for these needs, no planning could be done. "This needs to be understood," he cautioned.

G. Hartley thought that if the Committee came up with a sound, comprehensive plan, made a presentation to legislators and got them behind the Committee, then they could go before to the Budget Committee with something well thought out. J. Hyk told the group that the Commissioners had a "\$5,000.00 credit" with S.M.R.T., and told the Jail Research Committee to go ahead and meet with S.M.R.T...

S. Story asked for clarification on how the Committee was supposed to proceed. T. R. Snyder explained that it was his understanding that the Jail Research Committee was to meet again, and that Grayson had outlined the planning technique.

E. Ellis added that the Committee would need to know what it wanted to do with the rest of the land. J. Hyk felt that open discussion with the State was needed to see if the State would be interested in putting a courthouse out there on the County property. He mentioned that if a Jail was put out there, it would make sense to put the Sheriff out there, and then follow with the courthouses and this would eliminate the hassles and dangers associated with transporting Waldo County inmates to and from the courthouse. E. Ellis re-emphasized the need to know exactly what would be going on the property. J. Hyk explained, "This is not up to us as Commissioners! It is up to you and your considered committee. We can't sell this!"

E. Ellis stated, "One thing is for sure - we can't sell this if a new Communications Center is involved."

B. Brierley commented, "We have to impress on the people that the cost to business will cost more to leave it like it is than to build."

A. Fowler agreed with Commissioner Hyk that the Selectmen have the power to do things. She added, "Education is the 'biggie.' The other County [who recently passed its jail referendum] put flyers in restaurants, etc. The few uniformed, loud ones are ones who come out to meetings."

S. Story stated that when Waldo County did this the first time, the Commissioners let the people know exactly what the costs would be. He then illustrated the shortfalls in planning by those other counties who had thought they'd be making money on inmates and now are "in trouble."

K. Littlefield felt that to be successful, it would almost have to be split into separate projects. "People just don't have the money. People feel that they have control over the County – and they do – so they cut [the budget]."

J. Hyk commented that this year, the County actually went backwards financially. K. Littlefield suggested that the County needed to show the legislature that there is a great need for "revolving-door loans."

J. Hyk explained that he needed to leave the meeting, as he had other pressing commitments. After brief discussion, the Commissioners agreed to hold Jail Research Committee meetings after each County Commissioners meeting as long as need be this year. It was agreed that 1:00 p.m. worked well for all. If the Probate Courtroom is available, that will be the meeting place.

Richard Desmarais was invited to be part of the Jail Research Committee. He agreed, "at this point." G. Hartley wondered if any other selectmen should be asked to join the Committee. S. Story responded that it might be very difficult because each of them would have to be "educated from the beginning." He reminded the group that this was already the fourth time through this meeting process.

G. Hartley felt that the Committee needed to get the coastal communities represented, as he felt that they would be paying the most because of State valuations.

B. Brierley also felt that Belfast should be represented, as they would pay the "lion's share."

S. Story said he would check with the City of Belfast and see if there was any councilor interested in serving until the new City Manager comes on board. S. Story thought Bob Plausse might also be interested in joining. B. Brierley said he would talk with him.

G. Hartley asked B. Arseneau to email S.M.R.T.'s contact information to him.

**NEXT COMMISSIONERS' SESSION:**

- The next Commissioners Court Session will be April 10, 2007.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded adjourning the meeting at 2:20 a.m. Passed by two.**

Respectfully submitted by Barbara L. Arseneau  
Waldo County Clerk